

G O D S Divine
Judgments made Vifable.

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Timely Warning

To all Wicked and Gripping Person
that does Oppress the Poor.

Being a true Relation of *John Capen* of *Silson* in *Bedfordshire*, that would not let the Poor Lease in his Cornfields, but said his Sheep should Eat it up, and putting in a Considerable Number, 32 of them Eat till they Burst, and being begg'd for the Poor he said he would Boyl out the Fat, and give them to his Hogs which kill'd them to the Great Amazement of all People, on the 20th of *August* last.

The second was one *Mr. Sharp* of *Sandon*, in *Chelmsford* in *Essex*, a Gripping Farmer who refused the Poor to Glean in his Fields, and having a Vast Quantity of New and Old Corn 'twas suddenly burnt down with his Hay-ricks, Barn-stables, and 15 Calves, on *Friday* last, being the Eighth of this Instant *Septem*. The said Damage computed to be at least 2350 Pounds; besides he designed to keep the same till it was dear, which Judgments I hope will be a Warning to all such Gripping Wicked Farmers for the Future.

With a Sermon, Preach'd upon that Occasion. By *Dr. Ainger* of *Chelmsford*.

Entered according to Order in the Hall-Book.

L O N D O N :

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*Gods Divine Judgment made vi-
sible, on two Eminent Rich
Farmers, &c.*

TH E Almighty's Divine Judgments ha-
been to to often felt of late, more than
used to be; and nothing will Dete-
rmine Wicked People from that Horrid Sin of Pinching
Gripping, and Grinding the Face of the Poor, and
to shew that the Lord has not in the least
lessen'd his Judgments, and especially when Men
Daily continue to oppress the Poor, as you will
find in the following Examples.

Mr. John Capon, an Eminent Rich Farmer in
Silsoe in *Bedfordshire*; the Almighty having in
a Wonderful manner blest his Undertaking and
having sent him a very Plentiful Crop of Corn
this Year, he at last began to grow Covetous
and thinking he should never have enough, when
he came to Reap it, refused his Poor Neighbour
round about him to Lease, in his said Fields.

And if any one did Dare presume to do it, he
would command his Men to Thrust them out
and

and some of his Neighbours Expostulating the matter with him, and telling that it was a very hard time, and Money was Scarce with the Poor, and that he ought to be Charitable and Commiserate the Conditions of the Poor People, he told them short, that Charity began at home, and that he ought to look after himself and Family, and that he designed to turn in his Sheep to eat it up.

Rich The Neighbour seeing him so hard hearted took leave of him and went away, and the next day he turn'd into the said Grounds about 32 Sheep, who fed so heartily till they Burst, and his Neighbours seeing what had happened to him, they came and told him that it was a Judgment sent on him from the Hand of the Lord; in being so hard hearted to the Poor, but he little regarded their sayings.

One of them prest him to give the said Sheep to the Poor, but he deny'd him that Favour also, and told him that he designed first to Boil all the Fat out of them, and then he would Fed his Swine with them.

And the next day a great Preparation was made to Boil the said Sheep, and after they got all the Fat as could be out of them; he caused them to be flung to his Swine, and they Fed so greedily on them, that they all Dyed, and not one of them escaped, which so Astonished the whole Neighbour-hood, and all the Spectators, and the whole Country round about.

This great Affliction and Judgment on this poor ungrateful Wretch, has made him almost go be-

sides himself; the poor crying out, 'tis a just Judgment sent on him from the hand of the Lord; and so Teas'd and Mortified is He, that he can scarcely go along the Country, for the Peoples Pointing at him, for his unmercifulness to the poor and thus he is the Wondering Astonishment of the Country where he dwells, and of the City of *London* and *Westminster* that hears it.

His Relations and Kins-folks come daily flocking in to see him, and to comfort him in his great Calamity, but he is comfortless, and cannot rest Night nor Day, and so grieved is he, that 'tis thought he will run Distracted for his great Loss.

Thus you may see how Visably the Hand of Providence overtakes such Covetous Gripping, Grinding, and Murmuring sort of Dispairing and Unmerciful People as he is.

This one would think should awaken all such as are of so Covetous and Sordid a Temper, but what shall we say, so long as we carry this Earthly Tabernacle of Flesh and Blood about 'em. so that 'tis almost morally impossible to prevent the same, the Devil being so Cunning a Creature to Tempt and we so frail to withstand his Temptations; as you will find in this second Example.

*A strange and Wonderful Account of
one Mr. Sharp, an Eminent Farmer
in Sandon, near Chelmsford in the
County of Essex, &c.*

ONE Mr. Sharp an other Rich and Eminent Farmer, living at Sandown near Chelmsford in the County of Essex, who was so Eminently blest these Years last past, that he had a vast Quantity of Old and New Corn, so prodigious a Stock, that it Hired this person in his Measures, that he was resolved not to sell any till it came to a very great Price, and thus he continued in his Resolutions for a Considerable time.

This Person was known to be a very griping and Penurious to the Poor, and would not suffer any to Glean in his Fields, and would be always thinking they Stole out of his Sheaves, and therefore commanded the Reapers and his own People to Lease it all up, so that there was not any left for the Necessitous poor and Indigent People.

And

And thus it continued for some considerable Time, it happened that the Threshers were set to Work, to Thresh out the said Grain in Order to sell Corn now it's rising Prodigiously; and they having Thresh'd out about 30 Quarters of Wheat in order to send to the next great Market Town.

And mighty Preparations was making to send it, and vast reckonings were made about the great Gains were likely to ensue there from; but now observe how Providence deals with such Penurious Covetous and griping sort of People, he that before refused to let the poor Lease in his Fields, and had plenty enough of Corn in his Barns and Out-Houses, has at an instant not a Grain to help himself as you will find by and by,

It so happened one Night (that this Rakeing Farmer thought to make great Prizes of Corn the next day at Market) as he was going to Bed, he Order the Maid to take up a Pan of Wood Coles to warme his Bed, the Master being gone up Stairs before.

The Maid had no sooner took up the Coles, but she Runs out with them into the Yard, and claping them down went to shut the outward Gate, and the Wind blew out one of the Coales; and after she was gone up Stairs and all People were a Bed, in the middle of the Night it was supposed, the Wind blew the Cole amongst the Thrashed Straw, and so it took Fire and burnt down all the Barns and Out-Houses full of Corne; it destroy'd that 30 Quarters of Wheat new Thrash'd, 15 Calves and many other Cattle.

The Farmers said loss is Computed to be at least
Three

Three Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty odd Pounds, which loss so Mortified our Reackoning Farmer that he is ready to run stark staring Mad; and all the World believes he will goe out of his Wits: This is a very great Damp upon him and they whole Country that bears it, and Surprizes all they Spectators.

And thus you may see in a twice what the Almighty can do when such Obstinate hard harted People do take upon them, to Oppress and Grind the Face of the Poor.

I hope this will for the future be a Warning to all such Obdurate and hard harted Wretches, that makes no Conscience of their ways, but even design to destroy the Poor to all Intents and Purposes.

The Truth of both this Relations are so well known to the People of *Silsen* in *Bedfordshire*, and to the People of *Sandown* near *Chelmsford* in the County of *Essex*, that if any Person doubts the Truth of any of the said Relations, if they do but Write down to any Acquaintance they well Testify the Truth thereof, or if they will but Enquire of they Coaches or Carriers that comes from thence they will Justify this to be a Truth and matter of Fact without any dispute to the Contrary.

And now O Lord, to Thee, the only Wise God, who art the Governour and disposer of all Things both in Heaven and on Earth, we beseech thy Excellent Majesty to give us such Hearts that we may be always doing thy Will.

O Lord, mollifie them that we may have Compassion and Charity to thy poor Creatures and our Brethren, whilst we live on this thy Earthly Foot-Stoole: Give us a sensible understanding and make us,

as to know that as we are to live with them in the other World? O make us so humble upon Earth as to have that Compassion for them, as poor Brethren and sit to be Objects of Charity for thy Dear Sons sake; Grant this O Lord, for thy Mercy sake. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen. Amen.

The Heads of the sermon Preach'd at Chelmsford, on that Occasion.

Psalm 82. Verse 3.

Defend the Poor and Fatherless: Do Justice to the Afflicted and Needy.

MY Beloved you may see what Heavy Afflictions have fell upon these two Eminent Rich Farmer, and pray what was it for.

I Answer had they received the Poor and Fatherless, which here in my Text is meant defending of them, viz. From Hunger and Thirst, from wants and Miserys. I say had they received them or defended them as they ought, the heavy Judgment of the Lord had ne're overtaken them.

For what Justice was done to these Needy Poor and Necessitous People none, were they not Afflicted by hunger? Yes, and that greatly, and their very Crys and Tears reached up to the Ears of the Almighty, and that brought down these severe Judgment upon those Wicked Farmers, for their hard heartedness to them.

I hope this will be a Warning to the rest, least the same fate overtake them as it has done in the Cases before us. But I beseech you brethren, do better things, receive the Poor and Needy, and God will Bless your Basket and Stores: Which, that it may be, shall be the Prayer of your Souls Saving Pastor at the Throne of Grace, Amen.

The Truth of which will be attested by the Coachman or Carriers which comes the aforesaid Countys, or any one that cometh from thence.

F I N I S.